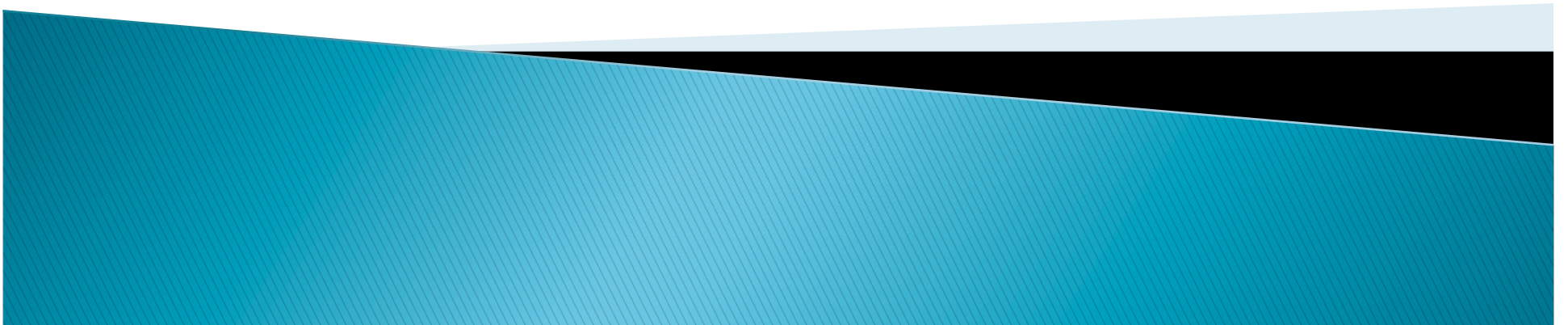




# CSAT or “Soo-Neung” Day

The D-Day for all Korean High School Seniors

Colin Shin 10F



# Article 1 (CNN)

## South Korean students' 'year of hell' culminates with exams day

By Jiyeon Lee, CNN

November 13, 2011 -- Updated 1530 GMT (2330 HKT)



South Korean students cheer on their high school seniors who are taking their college entrance exams.

### STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- The final year leading up to exams is an extremely intense period for students

**Seoul (CNN)** -- Most South Korean students consider their final year in high school "the year of hell." It is when all students are put to the ultimate test.

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/news/business-15662324>



# Articles 2 (LA Times)

## WORLD NOW

AFRICA | AMERICAS | ASIA | EUROPE | MIDDLE EAST

### South Koreans hold collective breath on exam day

November 10, 2011 | 1:02 am



[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world\\_now/2011/11/south-korea-education-an-annual-college-entrance-exam-required-silence.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2011/11/south-korea-education-an-annual-college-entrance-exam-required-silence.html)

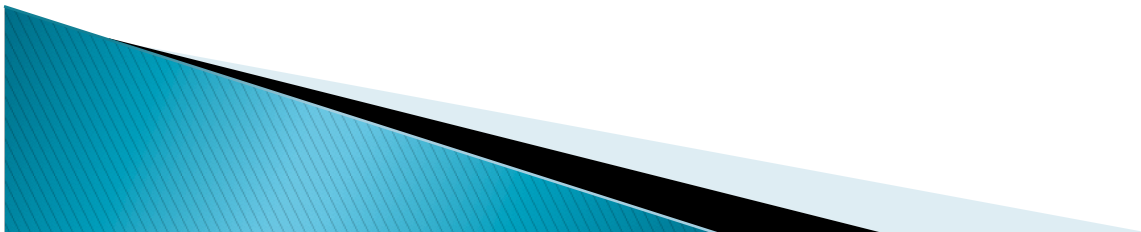
REPORTING FROM SEOUL — This usually bustling city was serenely quiet early Thursday: Early-morning planes were grounded, and many workers slept in to keep city streets empty.

All was kept still for a trying annual event that had 690,000 South Korean high school students — and more so their demanding parents — on edge: the annual college entrance exam.



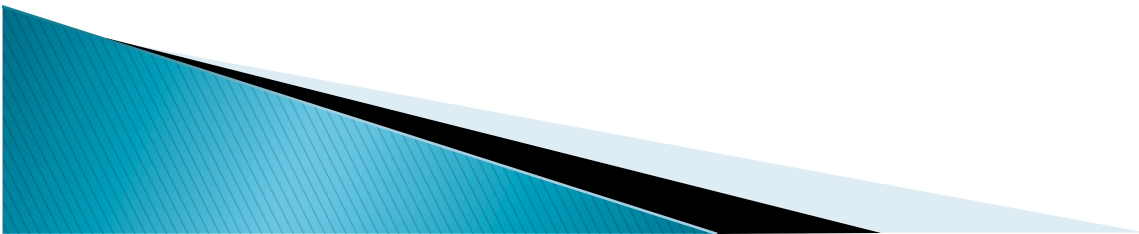
# Article summary

- ▶ All Korean high school students: burden of taking the CSAT.
- ▶ Pretty much determines the colleges available for you in Korea.
  - Working hours start at 10 a.m.
  - Early morning planes grounded
  - Empty streets to accommodate students
  - Even police cars offer rides to students



# Why should we care?

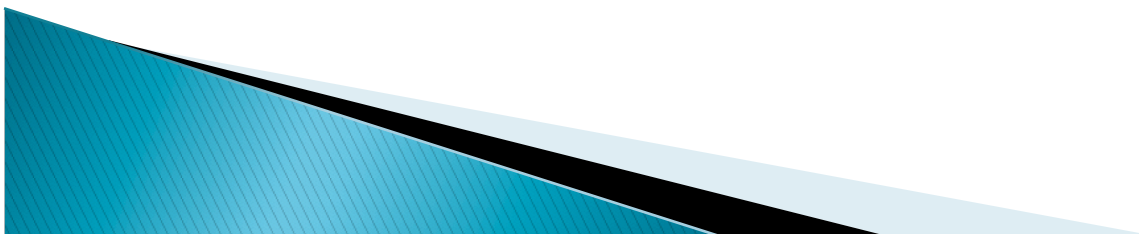
- ▶ has been quite controversial
- ▶ It determines how an individual is valued and judged – by one single huge test.
- ▶ It's only once per year, unlike the SATs.



# Defense



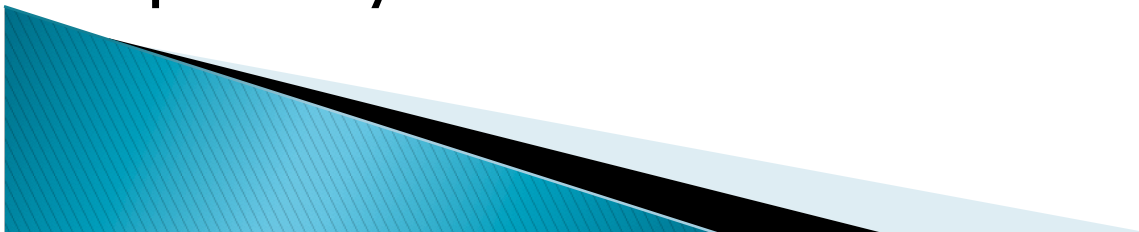
- ▶ Although praised by President Obama and others and held up as a role model, it has many side effects
- ▶ CSAT determines young people's futures
- ▶ Imperative for a new education system for Korea
  - focus on individual interest





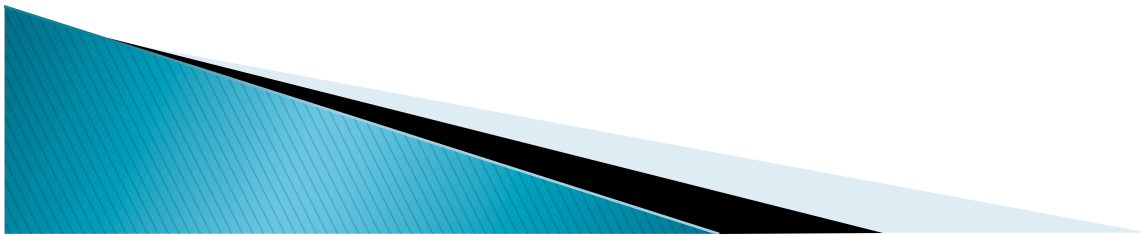
# Effects.

- ▶ Psychological burden and excessive stress.
- ▶ One of the highest suicide rates among high school students in the world.
  - no hope of future = depression.
- ▶ most Korean parents = education as #1 priority in life...

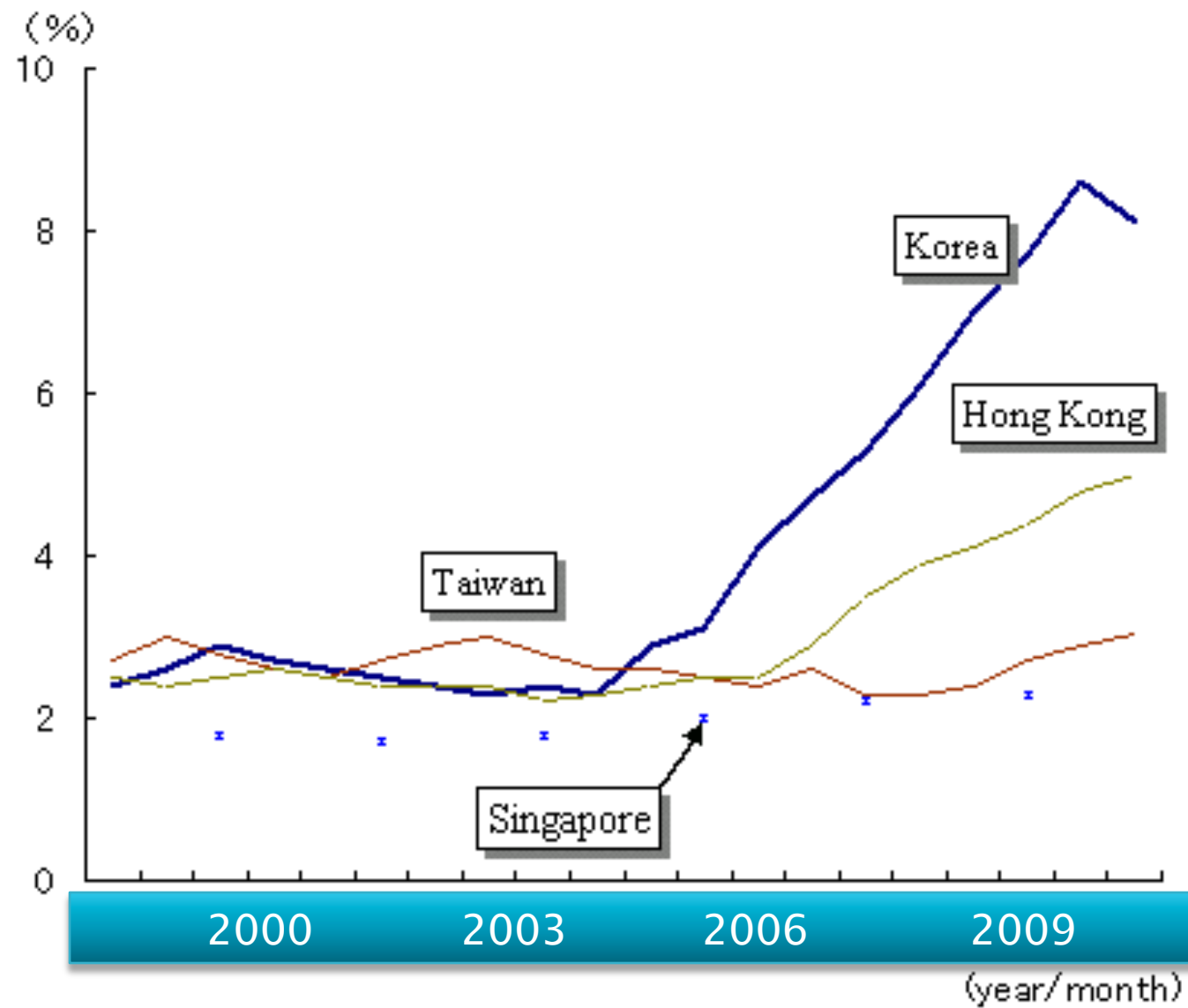


# Continued ramifications

- ▶ Social problem = graduates only look for high-end jobs (Samsung, LG,,,)
- ▶ Unemployment rate among young people is very high = hard to match positions



(Chart3-3-11) Unemployment Rate : Asian NIEs





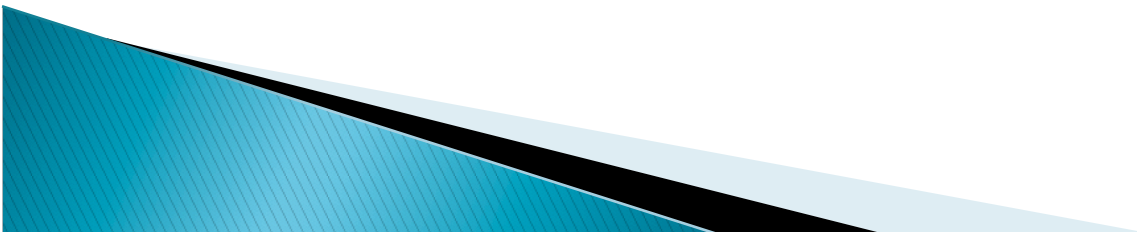
# Possible Solutions?

- ▶ Schedule CSAT more than once a year to give more opportunities.
- ▶ Less focus on just one exam but more focus on the overall three years of high school life
- ▶ Better communication between students and parents



# Images cited

- ▶ <http://olpost.com/v/3273127>
- ▶ [http://worldmeets.us/images/obama.punch.taekwondo\\_pic.gif](http://worldmeets.us/images/obama.punch.taekwondo_pic.gif)
- ▶ <http://cfile7.uf.tistory.com/image/1552D73A4D6746B8186DB0>
- ▶ <http://www5.cao.go.jp/98/f/19981120f-kaigai-e-40.gif>
- ▶ <http://www.carmelcountryhighlands.com/images/happyFamily-Pardee%20Homes-Carmel%20Valley.jpg>



Thanks for watching! 😊 😊 😊

